Stopping the killing of girls

2906. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big increase in honour killings of girls in different parts of the country, especially in Punjab;

(b) whether Government are taking any step to stop this menace; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from Social Security and Women and Child Development Department, Government of Punjab, there is no case of honour killing of girls in the State.

(b) and (c) Punjab Government is implementing schemes to uplift the social, educational and economic status of the girl child.

Empowerment of women

†2907. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for empowerment of women during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent by Government for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh schemes proposed to be implemented by Government for upliftment of women during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development aims at holistic empowerment of women which includes their social and economic empowerment with gender justice.

In this context important legislations such as Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 have been enacted.

The Ministry also administers schemes for economic upliftment of women which include the following:

'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)' Scheme aims to make a significant impact on women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills and providing employment to such women on a project basis by mobilizing women in viable groups, improving skills, arranging for productive assets, creating backward and forward linkages, improving/arranging for support services, providing access to credit, awareness generation, gender sensitization, nutrition education etc. The scheme covers 10 traditional sectors of employment. The target group to be covered includes the marginalized, assetless rural women and urban poor. The State-wise release of funds during the last three years under STEP Scheme is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.